

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY- -JUNE 5, 2008- -6:00 P.M.

Vice Mayor Tam convened the Special Meeting at 6:10 p.m. Councilmember Matarrese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call - Present: Councilmembers deHaan, Gilmore, Matarrese, Tam and Mayor Johnson - 5.

[Note: Mayor Johnson arrived at 6:47 p.m.]

Absent: None.

(08-253) Workshop on the City's Two-year Financial Plan and Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Years 2008-10.

Former Councilmember Barbara Kerr, Alameda, submitted a letter; stated Art in the Park was not meant to be a fundraiser; it was created to allow Alameda artists to have an event to show art; urged Council to keep the event.

Steve Jones, Alameda, suggested daily staff assigned to fire prevention, training, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Deputy Fire Chief be used to staff the fire apparatus; stated the savings would not be as great as placing an apparatus out of service; fooling with having less than 27 firefighters on duty would be reckless.

The City Engineer gave a Power Point presentation on the Capital Improvement Program.

Councilmember Matarrese inquired what is the current backlog for the sidewalk repair program.

The City Engineer responded that she would provide information.

Vice Mayor Tam requested information on the magnitude of the deferred maintenance for streets and sidewalks, including ponding near the Posey Tube and Veterans' Building repairs.

Councilmember Matarrese stated the inventory of sidewalk repairs is known; that he would like to know where the City is before approving the CIP budget in order to prioritize.

Councilmember Gilmore requested staff to provide a list of streets that are rated 30 to help Council prioritize.

Mayor Johnson stated staff should include how much it would cost to

improve the street segments at high risk.

The Deputy City Manager gave a Power Point presentation on revenue strategies.

Following Council discussion of assessment districts, Vice Mayor Tam requested that the matter be added to the polling questions.

Mayor Johnson requested the amount of EMS bad debt be provided to Council as well as how the City tries to collect.

The Fire Chief gave a Power Point presentation.

Vice Mayor Tam requested staff to review Mr. Jones's suggestion.

Mayor Johnson questioned whether fire inspections could be done by the Planning and Building Department.

Councilmember Matarrese requested the impact of reducing a truck company and the impact of interrupting office services be compared side-by-side; stated addressing a fire or hazardous situation needs to be weighed against a slow down in inspections; that he would like an analysis of using office staff to fill response staff when there is an overtime issue.

The Fire Chief continued the presentation.

Mayor Johnson requested information on how often the Fire Department responds to hazardous material calls.

The Fire Chief continued the presentation.

Following discussion of Oakland's contract with American Medical Response (AMR) for medical calls, Councilmember deHaan requested background information and data on how often Alameda is called to support AMR; further requested information on the amount of debt from said calls.

Vice Mayor Tam questioned the amount of overtime needed when there is full staffing.

Councilmember Matarrese requested staff to identify the amount of overtime associated with said calls and the total value of the calls; further requested the cost delta for the 6-to-1 ratio of AMR's to Alameda's calls for mutual aid.

Mayor Johnson requested information on the number and type of calls for each station.

The Fire Chief continued the presentation.

Following discussion regarding the Countywide paramedic service assessment district, Councilmember Matarrese requested staff to review implementing the voter-approved tax.

The Fire Chief continued the presentation.

Following discussion regarding training, Councilmember Gilmore inquired what is the average number of hours for training a firefighter.

The Fire Chief stated the matter could be placed on the issue bin; continued the presentation.

Councilmember Matarrese requested the City Manager to provide an analysis of whether or not the organization is large enough to warrant the Administrative Management Analyst position; inquired whether other cities of similar size have the position; stated other departments have the position; staff should review consolidating or outsourcing; requested the scenario slide be published to share it with the public.

Councilmember Gilmore requested staff to review the possibility of having a Citywide grant writer.

Mayor Johnson concurred with Councilmember Gilmore's suggestion; stated it could be handled on a contract basis.

Domenick Weaver, Alameda Firefighters Local 689 President, discussed brown outs in San Francisco and Oakland; stated that he does not support the brown out proposal.

John McCahan, Alameda, urged the Council to look for alternatives to pulling a truck company; suggested revenue enhancements, such as increasing and ensuring collection of EMS fees; further suggested EMS transport be considered; stated South San Francisco implemented said service.

In response to Mayor Johnson's request for further explanation of EMS transport, Mr. McCahan stated there are options which would raise \$800,000 to \$1.4 million in revenue.

Councilmember Gilmore stated there could be huge start up costs.

Mr. McCahan encouraged review of the business model.

The City Manager stated the presentation for the evening is concluded.

Mayor Johnson requested that the 40% of EMS fees that are not collected be addressed at the next workshop.

Councilmember Matarrese requested Council consensus that the public safety questions in the issue bin are most pressing; public safety is a front line responsibility and has the biggest impacts on direct service; said issues in the issue bin should be elevated and addressed first.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the Special Meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara Weisiger  
City Clerk

The agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with the Brown Act.